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DO NOT WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT IN THE SAME LETTER

CDT-N

Desbarats, George Joseph

[Deputy Minister of the Naval Service, Ottawa]

April-May 1917

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April 30th, 1917

C. J. Desbarats, Esq., C.M.G.,

Deputy Minister of the Naval Service,

Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Professor Chant, of the Department of Astronomy, informs me that he recently applied for a license to use a wireless equipment, and that you are reluctant to grant it, stating that a license has already been given to Professor L. B. Stewart. Perhaps you will allow me to explain the conditions existing here.

Professor Chant has charge of the instruction in Astronomy and Professor Stewart of that in Surveying. The former has his quarters in the Physics Building and the latter in the Geodetic Observatory. These buildings are a considerable distance apart and it is not feasible for one to use the other's equipment.

Some wightteen months or thereabouts ago a permit was granted to Professor McLennan (Professor of Physics) and a wireless outfit was installed in the Physics Building. The aerial on this building has been used by Professor Chant to obtain time-signals. Professor McLennan at present is not using any wireless aparatus and Professor Chant simply desires to continue to receive wireless time-signals.

Professor Chant states that in his application (which was first made to the G.O.C. of No.2 M.D. under date March 19 and later on April 12 to you) he asked for permission to use a wireless outfit and also a portable set. This would, of course, include sending-apparatus.

The application was made in this form after consultation with Capt. Coventry, D.I.O. for M.D. No. 2, and the especial object in view was to be able to render service to the military authorities by helping in wireless instruction. During the past winter Professor Chant's assistant, Mr. J. P. Henderson, was able to assist in the training of some members of the Divisional Signalling Company by co-operating with them in wireless practice, and at present he is aiding Professor Rosebrugh in giving instruction in wireless telegraphy to the Royal Flying Corps. All this work has been done without remuneration.

Perhaps the inclusion of sending-apparatus in the application caused you to hesitate to grant the license, and if such is the case, Professor Chant is willing to have his application limited to the reception of time-signals.

His application is reduced, therefore, to a request that he be allowed to continue the use of a service which has been in operation for a year; it does not involve the installation of new apparatus. This obtaining of time-signals by wireless is a very necessary part of the instruction in astronomy, and to be deprived of it would be a real hardship.

I feel sure that, in view of the above explanations, you will consider the application favourably.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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University of Toronto.

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY.

April 27, 1917

Dear President Falconer, —

The enclosed draft letter states the facts of the case.

You will alter it, of course, in any way to make it more effective; and I feel sure it will have the desired effect.

Very sincerely

C A Chant

Draft for the President.

G.J.Desbarats, Esq., C.M.G.,
Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.

Dear Sir

Prof. Chant, of the Department of Astronomy, informs me that he recently applied for a license to use a wireless equipment, and that you are reluctant to grant it, stating that a license has already been given to Prof. L.B.Stewart. Perhaps you will allow me to explain the conditions existing here.

Prof. Chant has charge of the instruction in astronomy and Prof. Stewart, of that in surveying. The former has his quarters in the Physics Building and the latter in the Geodetic Observatory. These buildings are a considerable distance apart and it is not feasible for one to use the other's equipment.

Some eighteen months or thereabouts ago a permit was granted to Prof. McLennan (professor of Physics), and a wireless outfit was installed in the Physics Building. The aerial on this building has been used by Prof. Chant to obtain time signals. Prof. McLennan at present is not using any wireless apparatus and Prof. Chant simply desires to continue to receive wireless time-signals.

Prof. Chant states that in his application (which was first made to the G.O.C. of M.D. No. 2, under date March 19 and later, on April 12, to you) he asked for permission to use a wireless outfit and also a portable set. This would, of course, include sending-apparatus. The application was made in this form after consultation with Capt. Coventry, D.I.O. for M.D. No. 2, and the especial object in view was to be able to render service to the military authorities by helping in wireless instruction. During the past winter Prof. Chant's assistant, Mr. J.P.Henderson, was able to assist in the training of some members of the Divisional Signalling Company by co-operating with them in wireless practice, and at present he is aiding Prof. Rosebrugh in giving instruction in wireless telegraphy to the Royal Flying Corps. All this work has been done without remuneration.

Perhaps the inclusion of sending-apparatus in the application caused you to hesitate to grant the license. If such is the case, Prof. Chant is willing to have his application limited to the reception of time-signals.

His application is reduced, therefore, to a request that he allowed to continue the use of a service which has been in operation for a year; it does not involve the installation of new apparatus. This obtaining of time-signals by wireless is a very necessary part of the instruction in astronomy, and to be deprived of it would be a real hardship.

I feel sure that, in view of the above explanations, you will consider the application favourably.

Yours truly

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CPE-N

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPUTY MINISTER
AND QUOTE
№ 209-12-17.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVAL SERVICE
CANADA

Ottawa
9th May 1917.

Sir:-

With reference to your communication of the 30th ultimo, regarding application of Professor Chant of your Department of Astronomy for license to install and operate a radiotelegraph equipment at the University, it is noted that the aerial which Professor Stewart has been licensed to use is in another building and it is not feasible for Professor Chant to make use of the same.

With regard to the permit granted to Professor McLennan for the installation and operation of a W/T station in the Physics Building, the same was not granted by this Department, and as we are the only authorities in the Dominion with power to grant such a permit, I should be glad to know who took upon themselves to issue the same.

In view of your representations of Professor Chant's requirements, the Department is disposed to grant his application for the installation of an aerial for receiving purposes only.

A form of application for license has already been sent to Professor Chant and on receipt of the

R.A.Falkner,Esq.,
President,University of Toronto,
Toronto,Ont.

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same duly filled out, steps will be taken to issue a license.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. J. Desbarats

DEPUTY MINISTER.

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May 11th, 1917

G. J. Desbarats, Esq., C.M.G.,

Deputy Minister of the Department of Naval Service,

Ottawa.

Sir:

I have pleasure in acknowledge with thanks your letter of 9th May in which you kindly agree to my request and have sent to Professor Chant forms of application for license for the installation and operation of radiotelegraph equipment at the University.

With regard to the permit granted to Professor McLennan for the installation and operation of a wireless telegraphy station in the Physics Building for which you say you gave no authorisation, I am informed that the permit was given by the Headquarters Staff of Military Division No.3 and so far as we knew everything was in perfectly regular order.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.